

Application No. 10/716,729
Amendment dated September 6, 2006
Reply to Office Action of May 18, 2006

REMARKS

The Examiner had objected to paragraph 0055 of the specification. It is believed that the error referred to was corrected in a previous amendment.

The Examiner had previously rejected claim 1-5 and 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Moslehi et al U.S. Patent No. 6,471,830 in view of Tanaka et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,210,539 and Usui U.S. Patent No. 5,513,765.

Regarding amended claim 1, the references do not teach, individually or in combination, a peripheral ionization source connected to and surrounding a substrate support on its periphery to form a common planar surface having a substrate support surface at its center, with the substrate support and the peripheral ionization source in a series RF circuit in which the substrate support surface is biased to capacitively couple to a plasma proximate planar surface and the peripheral ionization source energized to inductively couple to the plasma proximate the planar surface, thereby forming a high density plasma across the planar surface by both capacitively and inductively coupling energy thereto from the series RF circuit.

It is submitted that the claims are patentable, and accordingly, early allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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